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about the colony in so many of its aspects that nearly every one, from the merchant and mariner to the tourist and health-seeker, is likely to find in these official pages what he desires to learn about New Zealand. Here is a suggestive statement relating to the Maori:

So long as the Maori kept to their originally-known colours—black, white and red—in the ornamentation of their houses and clothing the effect was harmonious and pleasing, but when they obtained European paints, dyes and coloured fabrics they were guilty of combinations of colour offensive to the cultivated eye.

Joseph Dombey. Sa Vie, son Œuvre, sa Correspondance. By Dr. E. T. Hamy. cx and 434 pp., Map, and Illustrations. (Librairie Orientale & Americaine.) E. Guilmoto, Paris, 1905. (Price, fr. 7.50.)

Joseph Dombey was a physician of the latter part of the eighteenth century whose attainments in archæology were considerable, though he was above all a naturalist. Turgot sent him to Peru and Chile especially to study their flora, and eight years of his life (1778-1785) were given to this arduous undertaking. Returning to France on the eve of her terrible period of internal political troubles, Dombey became involved in difficulties, and he died while yet he had published practically nothing. Dr. Hamy's book has been printed at the cost of several French societies in order to preserve the results of Dombey's scientific labours, which were found almost entirely in his correspondence. The recital of the main facts of his life and an appreciation of his work fill about one-fifth of the book, and the correspondence occupies the remainder.

Nordamerika. Von Dr. Emil Deckert. Second Edition. xii and 608 pp., 130 Illustrations, 12 Maps, and 21 Tables. Bibliographisches Institut, Leipzig, 1904.

In the first edition of "Allgemeine Länderkunde," the whole of America was treated in one volume no larger than this book, which is devoted to North America alone. This is one of many evidences that it is now more difficult than ever to generalize or summarize in short compass the accumulated information concerning our continent which the numerous scientific bureaux of the United States, Canada, and Mexico are constantly putting into book form. Dr. Decker wrote on North America in the first edition, and now, with twice the space at his command, and with richer materials, his book has a large variety of new contents, though its form and plan are unchanged. In undertaking such a task Dr. Deckert possessed the advantage of having travelled very extensively in North America and with the leisure to study its geographical and other aspects.

As the book treats of all phases of North American geography, none of the numerous topics can be exhaustively handled. What it does is to give a faithful picture of the continent in its most prominent organic and inorganic aspects; and in this we have seen no superior work.

A Book on Essex County, Mass.—Mr. John Henry Sears of Salem, Mass., has just illustrated the fact that there is opportunity for exploration at home. He has written a book "The Physical Geography, Geology, Mineralogy, and Paleontology of Essex County, Massachusetts," which will be of much value to residents of that neighbourhood. It is not often that we have an opportunity to dip into the earth studies with a book before us treating of the subject as far as it relates to our immediate surroundings. This is an advantage that the people of Essex County may now enjoy. They do not need to go outside of their own

county for numerous illustrations of what the author is talking about, and they can form their own opinions as to his accuracy. Everybody in the county who is fond of mineralogical rambles should own this book, for it will guide him to the regions where specimens may best be obtained. There are over 200 half-tone illustrations, which help the text; and the book is one of the best local studies of the kind.

The Gambia Colony and Protectorate. An Official Handbook. By Francis B. Archer. xviii and 364 pp., 4 Maps, 45 Illustrations, and Index. St. Bride's Press, Ltd., London (1905?). (Price, 10s.)

A compendium of all manner of information about the colony, including its history from the day of Mungo Park to 1904. It shows the present progress of the people and their country in the various districts, gives an English-Mandingo vocabulary of about 800 words and phrases that are in common use, and presents a large amount of miscellaneous information of importance to all who have much to do with the Colony. The author says it is no longer true that three Governors are required for a West African colony—one dead, another acting, and the third on his way out. While Gambia is not yet an ideal health resort, disease has been fought there with a degree of ever-growing success.

Die Mandschurei. Übersetzt von R. Ullrich. 51 pp. and a Map. Karl Siegismund, Berlin, 1904. (Price, M. 1.)

This book is an admirable epitome of the geography, population, and economic condition of Manchuria at the time it was written. It was translated from the Russian "Material for the Geography of Asia" collected by officers of the Russian General Staff, and, like other works from the same source, it is a good piece of geographical writing. The pamphlet is short, and does not pretend to give anything more than what is necessary for a general knowledge of Manchuria.

Vom Heiligen Berge und aus Makedonien. Von H. Gelzer. xii and 262 pp., 43 Illustrations, Map, and Index. B. G. Teubner. Leipzig, 1904. (Price, M. 6.)

The author visited the Greek convents and a few famous old churches in Albania to study historical and other literary manuscripts of the past centuries which are preserved in these places. He improved the opportunity, also, to inquire into the present state and government of the convents and into the conditions prevailing in Macedonia. The result is a book that is rather out of the common in the material utilized, and gives many interesting facts, especially about the Athos peninsula, in which, in 1902, 7,522 monks of the Greek Church were living, more than half of them Russians, while most of the remainder were Greeks. The photographs help to give a vivid idea of these great religious retreats, and also of various phases of life in Macedonia.

Statistique Annuelle de Géographie Comparée. By Prof. Jean Birot. 32 pp. Hachette & Cie., Paris, 1905.

A well-arranged statistical handbook, in which each kind of facts for the various countries is grouped for purposes of comparison. In the table relating to iron, for example, the quantity, value, and mean price per ton, in certain years, are given for the eight chief producing countries. Another table shows the commercial movement in the principal ports of the world for the years 1901 and